

**Insurance & Real Estate Committee**

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Public Hearing Testimony

SB 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut (Against)

Lisa Passidomo

Dear Committee Chairs Senator Lesser and Representative Wood, Committee Ranking Members Senator Hwang and Representative Pavalock- D'Amato, and other members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee of the CT General Assembly:

Thank you taking the time today to consider my testimony. I am here today to voice my concern over SB 842, a proposed tax on health insurance.

I am a nurse, and I truly believe that access to quality, affordable health care is a basic human right. And the COVID-19 pandemic has only reinforced this belief. I have faced too many patients suffering from the coronavirus and have witnessed too many lives lost and families devastated at the hands of this pandemic. I applaud your intentions to expand access to healthcare for Connecticut's residents. However, I believe SB 842 is the wrong approach.

In addition to my role as a nurse, I am also a mother who understands the need for working parents to have access to high quality care for their children. However, I fear that SB 842 will significantly increase the costs for my family's health care. And I know that I am not alone in this fear. Many families are already struggling financially, and we simply cannot afford any additional costs, especially not on health insurance.

With the pandemic still very real and the economy still struggling, you must not consider policies that make healthcare more expensive for our state's families. While your intentions are pure, a tax on health insurance wouldn't actually be solving any problems, and would just create more, by increasing the cost of health care for working families, who are struggling at this time.

I hope that you will reject SB 842 and take a look at policies that will lower the cost of health care; not make it more expensive for our state's working families.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lisa Passidomo